

COUNTRY Germany Approved For Release 2006/04/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013300410003-0

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TOPIC Altenburg Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 21 July 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. At 10:30 a.m. on 9 May, there was no flying at the Altenburg airfield. Maintenance work was being performed on 16 transports. The engine of one MiG-15 was being tested. At 10:26 a.m. on 12 May, a transport took off from the field. Between 10:10 and 10:30 a.m., 15 transports, one plane fitted with an in-line engine in addition to one MiG-15 were observed on the landing field. After 5:30 a.m. on 20 May, six transports continuously practiced individual flying. The planes took off and landed at intervals of 5 to 10 minutes. At 10:20 a.m., maintenance work was being performed on 15 transports. At 11:13 a.m., three transports, which had approached in flight formation, landed. A radio truck and another truck were seen at the end of the runway. At 5:30 a.m. on 23 May, two transports circled over the town. One transport each landed at 9:47 and 9:50 a.m., while another transport took off at 10:12 a.m. heading south. At 10:35 a.m., 13 transports, 1 jet fighter and 1 plane fitted with an in-line engine were observed at the installation. At 10:35, the field was crossed by a transport plane from which one man parachuted. Sixteen transports were parked at the installation on 26 May. There was no flying between 10:10 and 10:45 a.m. The weather was rainy. At 8:40 a.m. on 10 June, 13 transports took off from the installation for formation flying. At 8:50 a.m., a formation of seven Li-2s crossed the field from northeast to southwest; it was joined by another formation of six Li-2s at 9:14 a.m. At 9:30, these 13 transports crossed the field. Maintenance work was being performed on three Li-2s parked at the field. Other observations made at the installation during the period from 12 through 20 June included:

Date	Observations
12 June	Maintenance work on 16 Li-2s and 4 MiG-15s between 9:55 and 10:20 a.m.;
13 "	a formation of six Li-2s crossed Altenburg at 8:40 a.m.;
	a flight of three MiG-15s flew over the town at 10:07 a.m.;
14 "	no flying at 10:20 in rainy weather;
16 "	a Li-2 took off at 8:50 a.m.;
	16 Li-2s parked at the field between 8:50 and 9:20 a.m.
19 "	a Li-2 took off at 8:40 a.m.;
20 "	23 Li-2s, three of which towing cargo gliders, crossed Altenburg between 4:15 and 4:30 a.m. *

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2. On 9 May, firing at three targets was practiced at the target range on the western border of the installation. Field training was also observed. The same practices were held on 12 and 20 May and on 12 June. On 19 June, [ ] 25X1 two groups of 15 men each armed with rifles doing close order drill. About 1,000 meters from the cement works at the southeastern edge of the field, [ ] a well camouflaged artillery piece in a wooded area. One officer and four EM, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, [ ] near the gun. \*\* 25X1
3. The levelling work at the landing field continued. The patch of woodland in the northern extension of the runway, north of the improved road to Wilschwitz was being cleared. On 20 May, a narrow-gauge field railroad track north of this road was being dismantled. On the same day work was started on levelling the earthwalls of the old target range. Two dredgers were employed for this work. On 23 May, two bull dozers, four tractors, one roller, one harrow and one dredger were employed for the levelling work. The cleared timber was hauled away by the farmers' cooperative from Thonhausen. On 9 May, about 20 men were observed digging foxholes, trenches and machine gun emplacements under simulated combat conditions at the northeastern edge of the installation.
4. Vehicles observed at the field included sedans [ ] and trucks 25X1

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\* [ ] Comment. The cargo gliders were observed for the first time over Altenburg. It is believed that they took off from this field. As last year, air landing maneuvers appear to have started again at the beginning of June. This year, cargo gliders have also been observed over Koeppenick, Schoenwalde and Erfurt-Bindersleben. It has not yet been determined what army units participated in these air landing exercises. For sketch of formation of 23 Li-2s and 3 cargo gliders, see Annex.

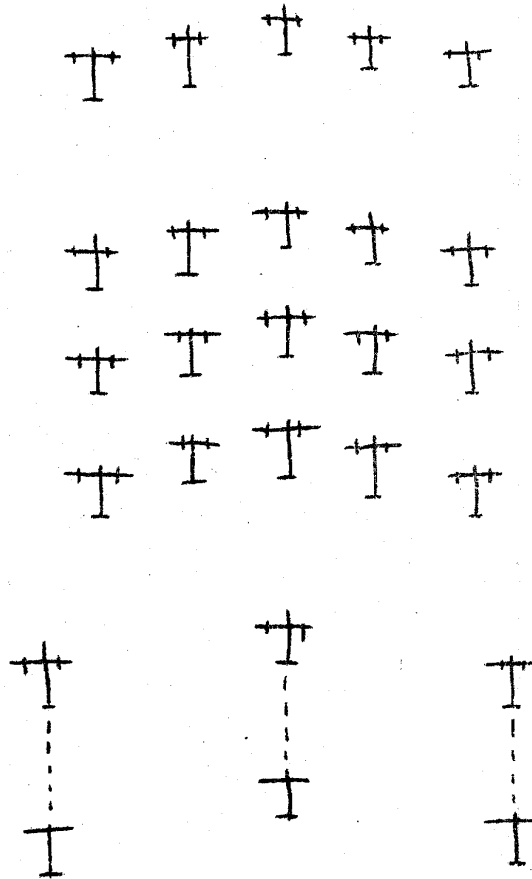
\*\* [ ] Comment. Antiaircraft artillery was observed for the first time in Altenburg.

\*\*\* [ ] Comment. The report confirms the previous information on the Altenburg airfield. The Li-2s observed there belong to the air transport regiment, which has been stationed there for a long time. Up to four MiG-15s have also been observed at the installation. It is believed that these aircraft belong to an alert flight of a fighter unit located farther to the east. The extension of the runway, which was started already in the spring of 1952, is progressing slowly, probably because of a shortage of workers. Appeals to construction workers to volunteer for work on this project were placed in the Soviet Zone press.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Formation of Li-2s and cargo gliders observed at Altenburg  
airfield



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